

# Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

SUBJECT	CONTENTS	PAGE
CROP PROSPECTS.....		1
PEACH CROP.....		1
WEATHER SUMMARY.....		1
APRIL EGG PRODUCTION.....		2
APRIL MILK PRODUCTION.....		2
BROILER PLACEMENTS.....		2
1952 FLUE-CURED PRODUCTION.....		2
1952 COTTON CROP.....		3
LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER.....		4
HAY STOCKS.....		4

No. 134

RALEIGH, N. C.

MAY 15, 1953

## CROP PROSPECTS CONTINUE FAVORABLE

### Crop Prospects Good

Late spring freezes hit practically every section of the State during April. Freezing temperatures were recorded in the Mountains and Western Piedmont, and as low as the thirties all the way to Coastal counties during the week ending April 18. There was frost over large areas of the State on April 20, 21, and 22, with freezing temperatures penetrating all the way to the southeastern counties on one or more mornings. In many places this was the latest date in the spring that freezing weather had ever been recorded.

Much of the early commercial snap-bean, and cucumber acreage was killed and had to be replanted. Cotton, corn and tobacco replanting was also necessary in some areas. Peaches in the Polk-Rutherford and Mount Airy sections were damaged rather severely in some instances. In the Sandhills area damage ranged from none to heavy. The 1953 peach crop is estimated at 1,400,000 bushels - 19 percent below average.

(Continued on Page 2)

### 1953 Wheat Crop Placed At 8.8 Million Bushels

Conditions on May 1 indicate a 1953 wheat crop of 8.8 million bushels in North Carolina -- second only to the record high crop produced in 1951. Production in 1952 was 8,316,000 bushels.

Yield per acre is estimated at 22.0 bushels, only 1 bushel below the record 1951 yield of 23.0 bushels. The 10-year average yield for the State is 16.1 bushels per acre.

It is now estimated that 400,000 acres of wheat will be harvested for grain this year -- 4,000 acres above last year, but 27,000 acres below average.

### Peach Crop Below Average

Current prospects point to a total North Carolina peach crop of 1,400,000 bushels -- 15 percent less than the 1,648,000 bushels produced in 1952 and 19 percent below the 1942-51 average.

Frost and freezing temperatures around April 20 damaged the peach crop to some degree in all areas of the State. Heaviest losses were sustained in the mountain areas with damage in the Sandhills ranged from none to severe. Although some orchards were damaged severely, the overall prospects for the crop generally are good.

Production in the 10 major peach producing states is estimated at 12,110,000 bushels -- almost 14 percent above the 1952 production but 13 percent below the 1942-51 average. Prospects in all except North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama point to larger production this year than was realized in 1952.

### MAY 1 PEACH CROP ESTIMATES

State	Average 1942-51	1952	1953
Thousand Bu.			
N. Carolina...	1,731	1,648	1,400
S. Carolina...	3,314	3,286	3,120
Georgia.....	3,802	1/2, 496	3,220
Florida.....	59	13	20
Alabama.....	326	585	544
Mississippi..	596	432	544
Arkansas....	1,839	1,539	1,782
Louisiana....	174	66	145
Oklahoma....	405	247	282
Texas.....	1,149	346	1,053
10 States....	13,894	10,663	12,110

1/ Includes excess cullage of 100,000 Bu.

Prices of fed cattle may not change much from present levels until fall when some seasonal strength is expected.

### April A Windy Month

April was a windy month. No day passed without winds as high as twenty miles per hour somewhere in North Carolina, and there were numerous occurrences of thirty miles per hour or more; yet there was little, if any destructively stormy weather. Sunshine was also an outstanding feature of the month. Only the 6th and 30th were generally cloudy all day throughout the State, and even on these days the sun broke through occasionally in places. Some places report as many as ten days of unbroken sunshine, with sunshine as much as three-quarters of all daylight hours in April. The combination of wind and sunshine caused soils to dry out, even where rainfall was abundant.

It was warm during the first twelve days of April; there were no record-breaking hot days, but temperatures remained consistently above long-term averages for early April. There followed then a ten-day cold period, during which several damaging frosts occurred, and temperatures were reported as low or lower than ever before so late in the season. It was warm then for the rest of the month, except for rather chilly mornings on the 27th and 28th. Temperatures reached the eighties generally on the 1st, 10th, and several of the last eight afternoons. Temperatures at freezing or below were recorded at all but coastal stations on one or more mornings between the 15th and 22nd. All these ups and downs resulted in average temperatures about normal for the month.

Rain fell frequently during the first two-thirds of April, not over three or four consecutive days passing without rainfall at most places in North Carolina. Amounts were generally small during this period, however, and only on the 12th was there an average of as

(Continued on Page 4)



# N. C. Farm Production, Disposition And Value Of Crops, 1952 Preliminary

CROPS	UNIT	PRODUC- TION	USED FOR SEED		FED TO LIVE- STOCK	FOR USE IN FARM HOUSE- HOLD	SOLD	SEASON'S AV PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS	VALUE OF PRODUC- TION 1/	VALUE OF PRODUCTS USED IN HOUSE- HOLD	VALUE OF SALES
			TOTAL SEED	ON FARM WHERE GROWN							
		(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	Dollars	Thousand Dollars		
Wheat.....	Bu.	8,316	640	512	1,830	765	5,209	2.05 1/	17,048	1,568	10,678
Corn.....	Bu.	56,176	3/	3/	3/	1,610	6,879	1.75	98,308	2,818	12,038
Oats.....	Bu.	12,682	3/	3/	3/	-	2,790	.92 1/	11,667	-	2,567
Barley.....	Bu.	1,398	3/	3/	3/	-	224	1.35	1,887	-	302
Rye.....	Bu.	225	138	28	90	3	104	2.40 1/	540	7	250
Sorghum, Grain....	Bu.	1,161	3/	3/	3/	-	395	1.74 5/ 2/	2,020	-	687
Soybeans, for beans	Bu.	4,785	675	371	96	-	4,318	2.60 1/	12,441	-	11,227
Cowpeas, for peas..	Bu.	100	70	49	4	12	35	4.50	450	54	158
Peanuts, picked & threshed.	Lbs.	291,450	17,000 6/	11,900	874	2,100	276,576	.113	32,934	237	31,253
Hay, all.....	Tons	1,325	-	-	1,226 4/	-	99	33.00	43,725	-	3,267
Lespedeza seed....	Lbs.	33,300	-	11,988	-	-	21,312	.171	5,695	-	3,644
Irish potatoes....	Bu.	5,456	644	97	191	1,590	3,578 7/	2.49	13,585	3,959	8,909
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	3,900	270	197	780	1,485	1,438	3.45	13,455	5,123	4,961
Sorghum sirup.....	Gals.	216	-	-	-	140	76	2.50 8/	540	-	190

1/ The values shown are for the marketing season or crop year and should not be confused with calendar year income.  
2/ Includes an allowance for unredeemed loan and purchase agreement deliveries valued at the average rate per bushel by states. 3/ Feed not shown separately, combined with "Fed to Livestock." 4/ Hay kept on farms. 5/ Based on the reported price for grain sorghum. 6/ Difference between total seed and seed used on farms where grown represents peanuts purchased for seed and is duplicated under "sold". 7/ Consists of potatoes sold for all purposes including food, seed, processing and livestock feed. 8/ December 1, 1952 price.

## Record High April Egg Production

Farm flocks in North Carolina produced 145 million eggs during April -- a new record high output for the month. Production during April was 1 million eggs above that of April 1952 and compares with the 1942-51 average for the month of 134 million.

The average number of layers on North Carolina farms during the month was 8,395,000, slightly less than the 8,412,000 layers on farms a year earlier.

Rate of lay per 100 layers at 1,728 eggs compares with an average of 1,716 eggs per 100 layers realized in April 1952.

During the first four months of 1953, North Carolina flocks produced 530 million eggs, 20 million more than were produced during the same period a year earlier.

## N. C. Milk Production During April Sets Record For Month

Production of milk in North Carolina during April totaled 144,000,000 pounds, a new record for the month. Production exceeded that of last April by 8,000,000 pounds or 6 percent.

There were an estimated 380,000 milk cows on North Carolina farms during April, an increase of 17,000 over the same month last year.

Weather conditions during recent months have been favorable for milk production. Pastures, in most areas, have made good growth and afforded succulent grazing.

## Broiler Placements Continue To Climb

Hatcherymen and dealers serving the commercial broiler producing areas of North Carolina placed 4,761,000 chicks with broiler growers during April. This was 10 percent more than the 4,321,000 chicks placed in broiler houses in the areas a year earlier and the largest April placements of record. Commercial broiler production in North Carolina has grown very rapidly in the past few years and has now spread into a great many of the counties in the western half of the State.

Hatcheries serving the commercial broiler areas placed 7,339,000 eggs in incubators in April -- 13 percent more than April settings a year earlier.

## CROP PROSPECTS (Continued)

Spring activities are normally advanced except in southern piedmont areas where wet soils have held up plowing and planting work. Winter wheat prospects continue to look favorable with the May 1 forecast pointing to a crop of 8.8 million bushels - second only to the record crop of 1951. Rye production is estimated at 270,000 bushels, less than average, but 20 percent greater than the 1952 crop. Hay crops were in good condition on May 1 averaging 87 percent of normal - 5 points above average. Pasture conditions were 2 points above average.

## Production And Value of 1952 Flue-Cured Crop Below 1951

The 1952 flue-cured tobacco crop in North Carolina totaled 898,090,000 pounds. This is 8 percent less than the record 1951 crop of 978,375,000 pounds.

The 1952 N. C. flue-cured crop was harvested from 735,000 acres for an average yield of 1,222 pounds per acre. This compares with the 1951 yield of 1,331 pounds. Hence, the decrease in production during 1952 was due entirely to lower yields, since the total flue-cured acreage was the same both years. (See table on Page 3)

The value of the 1952 North Carolina flue-cured crop amounted to \$448,572,000 -- 14 percent less than the record of \$523,358,000 set in 1951. The 1952 average flue-cured price was 49.9 cents compared with 53.5 cents for the 1951 crop.

The 1952 burley crop totaled 20,160,000 pounds, which was harvested from 12,000 acres for an average per acre yield of 1,680 pounds.

## Prospects For Rye Crop Good

A 1953 rye crop of 270,000 bushels is forecast for North Carolina as of May 1. This is 45,000 bushels more than was harvested last year, but 33,000 bushels below the 1942-51 average. Yield per acre is indicated at 15.0 bushels, equal to the record yield of 1952. The 10-year average yield is 12.0 bushels per acre. Acreage for grain this year is placed at 18,000 acres,



### Production Of Flue-Cured In All States And Burley Tobacco By Selected States 1951-52\*

Producing State	Type No.	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		Av. Price Per Lb. Rec'd By Farmers		Value of Production	
		1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
Flue-Cured		Acres		Pounds		Thousand Pounds		Cents		Thousand Dollars	
North Carolina.....	11	287,000	287,000	1,185	1,150	340,095	330,050	51.3	48.1	174,469	158,754
North Carolina.....	12	356,000	356,000	1,435	1,270	510,860	452,120	55.1	50.9	281,484	230,129
North Carolina.....	13	92,000	92,000	1,385	1,260	127,420	115,920	52.9	51.5	67,405	59,699
Total N.C. Flue-Cured.....	11-13	735,000	735,000	1,331	1,222	978,375	898,090	53.5	49.9	523,358	448,582
Virginia.....	11	109,000	110,000	1,240	1,310	135,160	144,100	53.8	51.5	72,716	74,212
South Carolina.....	13	132,000	132,000	1,330	1,310	175,560	172,920	50.6	51.9	88,833	89,745
Georgia.....	14	111,000	111,000	1,225	1,115	135,975	123,765	45.6	49.0	62,005	60,645
Florida.....	14	22,500	22,700	1,200	1,140	27,000	25,878	50.8	51.3	13,716	13,275
Alabama.....	14	600	600	1,050	980	630	588	47.0	47.0	296	276
Total All Flue-cured Types.	11-14	1,110,100	1,111,300	1,309	1,229	1,452,700	1,365,341	52.4	50.3	760,924	686,735
Burley											
North Carolina.....	31	12,200	12,000	1,750	1,680	21,350	20,160	54.2	48.7	11,572	9,818
Kentucky.....	31	312,000	315,000	1,345	1,380	419,640	434,700	50.6	50.7	212,338	220,393
Tennessee.....	31	85,000	89,000	1,315	1,375	111,775	122,375	53.2	49.2	59,464	60,208
Virginia.....	31	14,000	14,200	1,730	1,765	24,220	25,063	53.4	50.2	12,933	12,582
West Virginia.....	31	3,100	3,300	1,380	1,410	4,278	4,653	52.5	53.8	2,246	2,503
Total All Light Air-cured..	31-32	509,100	514,500	1,296	1,340	659,680	689,673	50.8	50.0	335,282	344,657
United States, All Tobacco.	All	1,779,900	1,773,000	1,310	1,272	2,331,591	2,254,855	51.1	50.0	1,191,331	1,128,320

\* Preliminary

### 1952 Cotton Crop Totals 569,000 Bales

Final Census ginnings for the 1952 season indicate a North Carolina cotton crop of 569,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. This compares with 542,000 bales harvested last year, 181,000 bales in 1950 and the 10-year average of 523,000 bales. Based on the season average price to May 1 of 35.9 cents per pound the 1952 crop of lint is valued at \$102,097,000 -- the third highest since 1925. The 1951 crop was worth \$105,019,000 -- at an average of 38.75 cents per pound.

Cottonseed production from the 1952 crop totaled 239,000 tons. This compares with production of 228,000 tons last year, 75,000 tons in 1950 and 197,000 tons in 1949. Cottonseed from the 1952 crop is valued at \$17,017,000 based on the season average price of \$71.20 per ton. The combined value of lint and seed was \$119,114,000 -- slightly less than the \$120,797,000 value of the 1951 crop.

It is now estimated that there were 753,000 acres of cotton in cultivation in the State on July 1 -- 42,000 acres more than were in cultivation July 1, 1951, and 14,000 acres more than the 10-year (1941-50) average July 1 acreage. There were 8,000 acres abandoned after July 1, leaving 745,000 acres harvested in the State during

1952. There were 702,000 acres harvested in 1951; 580,000 in 1950 and 880,000 in 1949. The 10-year average acreage harvested is 728,000 acres.

Yields from the 1952 crop averaged 366 pounds of lint per acre, compared with 370 pounds last year and the 10-year average of 341 pounds per acre.

The 1952 yield was 23 percent below a full yield, according to reports from North Carolina growers. Reduction

due to boll weevil was 9 percent, deficient moisture 7 percent, other climatic factors 5 percent, plant diseases and other insects 1 percent each. Loss to boll weevil was the lowest for several years and compares with 11 percent in 1951, 54 percent in 1950 and 27 percent in 1949. Yields from the 1951 crop were reduced a total of 22 percent, the 1950 crop 69 percent, and the 1949 crop 44 percent.

### N.C. Final 1952 Cotton Report With Comparisons

Items	Unit	1949	1950	1951 <sup>1/</sup>	1952
Acres in Cultivation July 1.....	Thous. Acres	889	601	711	753
Acres Harvested.....	Thous Acres	880	580	702	745
Lint yield per harvested Acre.....	Pounds	253	149	370	366
Production (Lint).....	Thous. Bales <sup>2/</sup>	466	181	542	569
Average Price Received per Pound (Lint)	Cents	29.16	41.04	38.75	35.9
Value of Production (Lint).....	Thous. Dols.	67,980	37,158	105,019	102,097
Production (Cottonseed).....	Thous Tons	197	75	228	239
Average Price Received per ton.....	Dollars	42.20	83.00	69.20	71.20
Value of Production (Cottonseed).....	Thous. Dols.	8,313	6,225	15,778	17,017
Value of Production (Lint & Seed).....	Thous. Dols.	76,293	43,383	120,797	119,114
Farm Disposition of Cottonseed					
Cash sales.....	Thous. Tons	171	59	203	211
Exchanged for Meal.....	Thous Tons	9	1	2	4
Used on farms.....	Thous. Tons	17	15	23	24
Reduction from full yield per acre from:					
Deficient Moisture.....	Percent	2	1	5	7
Excessive Moisture.....	Percent	10	8	1	0
Other Climatic.....	Percent	3	2	2	5
Plant Diseases.....	Percent	1	2	1	1
Boll Weevil.....	Percent	27	54	11	9
Other Insects.....	Percent	1	2	2	1
Total Reduction from full yield.....	Percent	44	69	22	23

<sup>1/</sup> Revised. <sup>2/</sup> 500 lb. gross weight bales.



# FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of the  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
S. R. Newell, Assistant Chief  
and published by the  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Division of Statistics  
L.Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the  
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh  
Ray B. Converse, Statistician Acting in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO  
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

ORIGINAL INFORMATION DIRECT FROM  
FARMERS AND OTHER LOCAL SOURCES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Raleigh, N. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FORM BAE-A-5-53-13,500  
PERMIT No. 1001

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300  
(PMGC)

LIBRARY,  
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRIC.  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
RALPH R. SHAW, LIBRARIAN

MAY 15, 1953

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER ABOVE LAST YEAR

Slaughter in commercial plants in North Carolina during March 1953 exceeded that of March 1952 for all important species of livestock. Likewise, following a normal seasonal trend, slaughter during March showed an increase over February for each species.

Meanwhile, meat production in commercial plants in the United States during March 1953 totaled 1,901 million pounds, the largest March production since monthly records were started in 1946. This is an increase of 9 percent over the 1,747 million pounds produced in February and an increase of 10 percent over the 1,732 million pounds produced in March 1952. Production of meat for the three-month period, January-March 1953, was 3 percent more than for the same period in 1952. Beef production for the three-month period was up 22 percent, veal production up 27 percent and mutton and lamb production up 19 percent. Production of pork was down 13 percent. Estimated meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected plants and other wholesale and retail plants, but excludes farm slaughter.

## Larger Hay Stocks On N. C. Farms

Hay stocks on N. C. farms totaled 292,000 tons on May 1. This compares with 230,000 tons on May 1 of last year and the 1942-51 average May 1 stocks of 284,000 tons.

U. S. May 1 farm stocks of hay totaled 14,731,000 tons. This compares with May 1, 1952 stocks of 14,958,000 tons and the 10-year average May 1 stocks of 15,443,000 tons.

## North Carolina And United States Livestock Slaughter \*

Species	March				January - March			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight		Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight	
	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953
<b>N. C.</b>	<u>Thous. Head</u>		<u>Thous. Lbs.</u>		<u>Thous. Head</u>		<u>Thous. Lbs.</u>	
Cattle..	6.7	8.6	5,484	6,801	21.7	24.6	17,599	19,703
Calves..	3.6	4.1	601	673	9.6	10.7	1,680	1,876
Sheep & Lambs..	0.1	0.1	12	17	0.2	0.2	18	24
Hogs....	60.0	65.0	13,418	13,751	175.0	201.0	38,676	42,152
<b>U. S.</b>	<u>Mil. Head</u>		<u>Mil. Lbs.</u>		<u>Mil. Head</u>		<u>Mil. Lbs.</u>	
Cattle..	1.3	1.7	1,240	1,679	4.1	5.1	4,025	4,914
Calves..	0.7	0.9	123	168	2.0	2.4	373	478
Sheep & Lambs..	1.0	1.3	109	132	3.2	3.9	334	393
Hogs....	7.1	6.2	1,671	1,419	22.7	19.8	5,404	4,603

\* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

## APRIL WEATHER (Continued)

much as an inch over the State. After the 19th, dry weather prevailed until the final day of April, when general rains averaged close to an inch. These rains brought totals for April somewhat

above normal over the greater part of North Carolina. Only the southeastern counties and a few isolated places in northern and southwestern Piedmont had below-normal totals for April.

## North Carolina Inches Of Rainfall, April 1953

